

Profitable Fox Farming



THESE ARE SILVER BLACKS
Photo by Underwood & Underwood

CANADA is the home of the aristocratic black and silver black fox, the breeding of these regal little animals having become an alluring and lucrative industry in various parts of this country, says a special dispatch from Moncton, N. B., to the New York

Herald. "It is very doubtful if California has anything on fox ranching when, in '40, the blast of her siren call resounded from coast to coast, and men became gold mad in their frenzy to 'get rich quick.'"

The province of New Brunswick claims the honor of possessing the largest ranch in the world. This ranch is situated on the Little river, 15 miles from the city of Moncton. In 1913 the Colpitts brothers—who then were farmers living in a sparsely settled agricultural district—saw great possibilities for fox ranching, and used to their advantage knowledge of the habits of wild animals acquired in hunting and trapping in earlier days.

There was a modest venture of a single pair of foxes, while today they are the proud possessors of more than 1,000 pups, apart from the old ones, numbering 600, thus placing this ranch as the largest single ranch in the world. It may be of interest to follow the evolution and workings of this ranch. Besides the main Colpitts ranch, the Little river valley is dotted with smaller ranches, in all of which they have an interest. The largest of these smaller ranches is the Anglo-American, with about 300 foxes. All the foxes in these ranches are of the silver black strain and nearly all of them from the original Colpitts pair. Foxes breed but once a year, reported cases of more frequent breeding being not well authenticated. Litters of five, six, and even seven pups are not uncommon, although the usual number is four and five.

The modern fox ranch at a distance resembles a wartime entanglement, being built entirely of heavy wire netting, seven or eight feet high, with an overhang to prevent the foxes from making their escape into the open or from getting from one pen to another. Formerly the ranches were inclosed by a high board fence with wire inside to prevent the foxes from burrowing holes, and thus making their escape. The idea was to keep the foxes from view because of their timid and suspicious nature.

The best ranches, however, have discarded the high board fence and visitors are allowed not only to see from the outside, but are taken through the ranches and into the pens right among the foxes. The Colpitts ranch covers several acres, the great inclosure being divided into hundreds of pens, each provided with a wooden box for shelter and a breeding pen. The fox likes the open and plays and runs about, climbing the wire netting, and otherwise displaying himself, except in hot or wet weather, when he seeks shelter. They do not mind the cold, and with the temperature below zero will remain out in the open without the slightest sign of discomfort. As a matter of fact, they appear to enjoy the extreme cold.

It is only in the mating and pupping season that the fox is kept in seclusion and outsiders barred from the ranches. Dr. E. A. Randall of Truro, Nova Scotia, an old fox farmer, says: "After foxes have mated and have been separated the ranchman makes daily visits to the female's pen, opens it every day and shuts her in the house every night. She becomes accustomed to these visits and shows very little fear or nervousness. Pups are due in 51 to 53 days after mating. When the pups have arrived the female is kept confined in the breeding pen for three days, at the end of which time she becomes attached to it and does not want to carry her pups out.



REYS ON A FOX RANCH Photo by Bayar, M.W.



"If, for any reason, the pups are not

thriving, the female is examined, and if her milk has dried up, which sometimes happens, the pups are taken away and reared by cats, who do not in the slightest object to such strange little 'kittens.' At the end of the eighth week the pups are taken from the mother and placed in the pen by themselves, to be fed sparingly of food, but when six months old they will be taking more food than the old foxes.

"The feeding of foxes is a very interesting and very essential part of their care. The fox does not rank high in an epicurean sense. He is not at all fastidious as to the quality of his food, but it is regarded as essential to the health of the little animals that they should have variety. In some cases horse meat is fed, but beef is preferred. The meat of rabbits is regarded as a delicacy and the ranchers buy up all that can be obtained."

The Colpitts ranch last winter paid out more than \$6,000 for rabbits shared in this province, and also imported several carloads from the West. A part of the fox ration is a coarse bread made of cornmeal or flour and bran, and a generous supply of fat. The refuse scraps from the biscuit factories are a rare delicacy, and cow milk is given in generous quantities. The big Colpitts ranch takes the milk of 40 cows, morning and night.

All the foxes from the best ranches are registered with the department at Ottawa. Of course registration is no certain guaranty of value, but no animal can obtain advanced registration unless it comes up to a certain standard, which includes pedigree, formation, and everything else that goes for breeding and excellence. Not all who go into the fox ranching business are successful. The fox is subject to many diseases, and once these get a foothold it is difficult to eradicate them. Worms are one of the principal causes of mortality, and the loss of ten per cent of the pups is considered a fair average. Instances are known of ranches being entirely wiped out by disease. As a precautionary measure some of the most successful ranches dip their foxes twice a year into a creolin mixture.

The origin of the silver black fox is somewhat obscure. A Mr. Oulton, pioneer in fur farming in New Brunswick, says the original black foxes came from Newfoundland, but the silver strain has been a development in breeding. The native fox of New Brunswick is red, and the fur is of little value.

The fox is a small animal of the cat species and in size between a cat and a small dog. When fully

furred out, as in the winter season, it appears much larger. This little animal is seen at its worst at this season, and is rather lean and lanky looking. The silver streaks are just now beginning to appear, coming first in the forehead and gradually spreading over the body. By December the fur will be thick and heavy, and it is then those animals which do not prove satisfactory breeders are "pelted" for market. The fox is a very cute looking little animal, though not as shapely as the skunk. Timidity and suspicion are its chief characteristics, and it is not at all vicious, being handled with ease. Few of them become tamed, although when the New York Herald correspondent visited the Colpitts ranch the other day one of the particular pets would answer the call of the proprietor and feed out of his hand.

Formerly foxes were caught in the wild state in all parts of Canada, but destruction of wild life goes on at a rapid rate in all parts of the world. Doctor Hornaday, director of the New York Zoological park, is authority for the statement that in New York state there are 500 destructionists to every conservationist, while in the West and in Canada there are a thousand to one, in Alaska the ratio is 2,000 to one, and in South Africa there are 100,000 destroying wild life to every one preserving it.

Hence the fur farms, and fur farming official statistics show that there are 794 fur farms in Canada, of which 753 are fox, 12 mink, 9 racoon, 3 marten, 2 skunk, 4 karakul sheep, 3 beaver, 3 muskrat. The increase in the number of farms over 1911 is 206. The number of animals on these farms is 22,455, valued at \$5,775,005, as compared with 16,529 animals, valued at \$4,722,005 in the previous year. There are hundreds of small ranches which are not included in this enumeration. There are two fox breeders' associations in Canada and two in the United States. The Canadian associations are the Silver Black Fox Breeders of Prince Edward Island and the Canadian Silver Fox Breeders.

In the United States are the American Fox Breeders association of Boston and the National Silver Fox Breeders association of Muskegon. There are fur farms of different kinds in most of the United States, as well as in all the provinces of Canada. The United States bureau of commerce is engaged in the fur industry in Alaska, having taken over the work in connection with the Pribilof Islands in 1911, where blue fox herds are maintained at the public expense and skins have been sold to the value of over half a million dollars.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL Sunday School 'Lesson'

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D.,
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Bible Institute of Chicago.)
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LESSON FOR NOVEMBER 12

JESUS THE GREAT TEACHER

LESSON TEXT—Luke 6:25-49.

GOLDEN TEXT—As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.—Luke 6:31.

REFERENCE MATERIAL—Matt. 5:1-18; John 3:2; 6:46; 7:46; Col. 2:3.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Jesus Teaching Us to Love Everybody.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Living by the Golden Rule.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—The Golden Rule in Everyday Life.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Jesus Teaching Us How to Live Together.

I. Characteristics of the Subjects of the Kingdom (vv. 20-28).

Only those who are subjects of the Kingdom know what blessedness is. The spiritual experiences of the subjects of the Kingdom are marked by the following steps:

1. Poverty of Spirit (v. 20). This means consciousness of one's lost condition and worthlessness. It is spiritual bankruptcy. It means to come to the end of self and to show sorrow for sins.

2. Hunger for Righteousness (v. 21). The one who has come to know his poverty desires the true righteousness of Christ.

3. Weeping Because of His Lack (v. 21). This is the godly sorrow which worketh repentance (II Cor. 7:10). Those who thus sorrow are assured that they shall laugh.

4. Treatment Which the Subjects of the Kingdom May Expect (vv. 22, 23). When the subjects of the Kingdom become like the King they invite the hatred, contempt and persecution of the world. Those who pass through this for Christ's sake should rejoice, for there is great reward laid up for them.

II. The Governing Principles of the Kingdom (vv. 27-38).

1. Love Your Enemies (v. 27). To love friends is easy, but to love enemies is only possible to those who have been made partakers of the divine nature.

2. Do Good to Those Who Hate You (v. 27). Love acts according to its own nature. Enmity only stimulates love to act in harmony with its own laws.

3. Bless Them That Curse You (v. 28). Injury by words is hard to let go unchallenged.

4. Pray for Them Which Despitefully Use You (v. 28). Christ's own example is the best commentary on this precept (Luke 23:34; cf. Acts 7:60).

5. Patiently Endure Wrong and Injury (v. 29). The Christian is not to bristle up in defense of his rights, but rather to suffer insult, injury and even loss. This should not be pressed so far that evildoers can go unchecked. It expresses the law which should govern individual action.

6. Give to Every One That Asketh (v. 30). This does not necessarily mean that the thing asked for should be given. We should give to every one that asketh, but not necessarily the thing asked for.

7. Do as You Wish to Be Done By (v. 31). This is called the "Golden Rule." If men were to live by this rule the labor problem would be solved. An end would be put to war. International relations would be peacefully adjusted and all profiteering in business would end.

8. Be Merciful (v. 36). The mercy of the Heavenly Father is the grand example.

9. Censorious Judgment Condemned (v. 37). We should not seek out the evil in others for our satisfaction.

10. Danger of Following False Teachers (v. 39). The one who does not know God and the way to heaven will lead others to ruin. Happily, we have the Scriptures, and the Holy Spirit is ready to make their meaning known, so there is no excuse.

11. Those Who Reprove Others Should Strive to Live Blameless Lives (vv. 41-46). It is easy to see others' faults, but hard to see our own.

12. The Sin of Profession Without Fruits (v. 46). The one who professes a life and fellowship with God should practice the principles which reveal the nature of God.

III. The Judgment to Be Applied to the Subjects of the Kingdom (vv. 47-49).

1. The one who hears and does the sayings of Christ the King shall be as secure as the house built upon the solid rock. The storms of the judgment cannot destroy him, for the Rock of Ages is immovable.

2. The one who hears and does not the sayings of Christ shall be overwhelmed in the judgment and go down to utter ruin and destruction.

If Walla Walla says so, it must be so

No law of limitations
blocks justice in
this case

All the way from Walla Walla comes a communication that we believe holds some interest for the general smoking public. At least, it gave us a thrill which we want to pass on if possible.

Walla Walla County
County Attorney's Office
Walla Walla, Washington
Larus & Brother Co., Richmond, Va.

Dear Sirs:

If a gentleman owes a debt he pays it, or, lacking the ability to do so, he at least admits that he owes it.

For many years I have been indebted to you, and up to the present time have made no acknowledgment; counting from the time that the obligation was first incurred it has long since been outlawed, but then it has been a continuing obligation, and the statute of limitations does not run against a gentleman's debt.

I was past fifty when I first knew the assuaging balm of the great God Nicotine and for a year or two I floundered around among all sorts of brands of tobacco before I found the right one and settled down. Now when my friends ask for a pipeful I hand over my pouch and they say "Edgeworth?" and I grin and say "uh-huh."

As I write, a pipeful of Edgeworth is going up in smoke, and for that reason I feel a little more kindly towards my fellow man.

With best wishes, I am,
Yours sincerely,
(Signed) A. J. Gillis.

As you see, it isn't so much that another smoker has found that Edgeworth just suits his taste as it is that this veteran prosecuting attorney, way out in Walla Walla should postpone duties to his State, his family, and his private affairs to sit down and write us a note of appreciation.

We liked his letter and are proud of the tobacco that inspired him to write it. Almost every mail brings us grateful letters from Edgeworth smokers—uncalled for, unsolicited, and unexpected.

Perhaps it is too much for us to believe that Edgeworth smokers as a whole are generous, big-hearted fellows who never miss an opportunity to boost their fellow men. Perhaps it isn't.

At any rate, if you aren't an Edgeworth smoker, we want to put you in a position to qualify as one. We should like to send you free samples—generous helpings of both Edgeworth Plug Slice and Ready-Rubbed.

Just jot your name and address down on a postal and we will send the samples immediately. If you wish, include the name and address of your tobacco dealer, we shall appreciate your courtesy.

Edgeworth is sold in various sizes to suit the needs and means of all purchasers. Both Edgeworth Plug Slice and Edgeworth Ready-Rubbed are packed in small, pocket-size packages, in handsome tin humidor, and also in various handy in-between sizes.

For the free samples address Larus & Brother Company, 48 South 21st Street, Richmond, Va.

To Retail Tobacco Merchants: If your jobber cannot supply you with Edgeworth, Larus & Brother Company will gladly send you prepaid by parcel post a one- or two-dozen carton of any size of Edgeworth Plug Slice or Ready-Rubbed for the same price you would pay the jobber.

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Injustice.
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One Secret of Success.
Those who succeed best when they work for others are those who see that in doing so they are also working for themselves.

It's as hard to live up to a good reputation as it is to live down a bad one.

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Eyes. If they Tingle, Itch,
Smart or Burn, if Sore,
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Grated, use Murine
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